

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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NESCO

PASS TO R. RACKMALES, OES/APT/SA

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AORG, OCON, UNESCO
SUBJECT: MINESPOL II CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 198895

1. UNESCO SECRETARIAT IS RACING AGAINST TIME TO MAKE FINAL PREPARATIONS FOR THE CONFERENCE. TO ILLUSTRATE-- ONLY TODAY ARE INVITATIONS BEING MAILED TO THE LDC'S, WHICH HAVE REPEATEDLY MADE KNOWN THEIR DESIRE TO SEND OBSERVERS. INTEREST AMONG PERMDELS TO UNESCO REMAINS LOW, AND FEW IF ANY HAVE MADE AN EFFORT TO KEEP INFORMED OF PREPARATIONS IN THEIR HOME COUNTRIES.

2. ALL PARTICIPATING NATIONS ARE SENDING SUBSTANTIAL DELEGATIONS (PERMDEL HAS SEEN THE PROVISIONAL LIST OF PARTICIPANTS). NEARLY WITHOUT EXCEPTION, THE DELEGATIONS ARE HEADED BY MINISTERS OF S&T, OR EQUIVALENT; THEY RANGE FROM 5 TO 10 IN NUMBER (EXCEPT FOR YUGOSLAVIA'S, WHICH CONTAINS PERHAPS 20 NAMES). THE SECRETARIAT WOULD APPRECIATE NOTIFICATION OF THE
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COMPOSITION OF THE US DELEGATION TO ALLOW COMPLETION OF THE PROVISIONAL LIST OF PARTICIPANTS.

3. REFTEL IS CORRECT IN STATING THAT AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN EAST AND WEST UNESCO CAN SERVE A USEFUL PURPOSE. IN FACT, THE SECRETARIAT SEES THIS AS ITS ROLE IN THE REGION, BEING PAINFULLY AWARE THAT THE

MULTIPLICITY OF BILATERALS MAY EVEN MAKE THIS ROLE SUPERFLUOUS IN MANY CASES. UNESCO HAS BEEN EXPERIMENTING WITH SOME "REGIONAL" (SUCH AS SCANDINAVIA) ACTIVITIES, AND MAY ALLUDE TO THESE AT THE MEETING.

4. AS FAR AS THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL OFFICE IS CONCERNED, IT CAN BE ASSUMED THAT POLAND, AUSTRIA, AND YUGOSLAVIA WILL MAKE BIDS FOR THIS OFFICE, PRESENTLY HOUSED AT UNESCO. PERMDEL CONSIDERS THE LOCATION OF THE OFFICE TOTALLY INCONSEQUENTIAL, DEVOID AS IT IS OF FUNDS AS WELL AS LEADERSHIP. THE ONLY CONSIDERATION IS THAT AT UNESCO IN PARIS IT DOES NOT COST MUCH IN OVERHEAD; FARMED OUT, IT WOULD BECOME VASTLY MORE EXPENSIVE. THUS, US POSITION SHOULD BE TO OPPOSE ANY SUCH SUGGESTION ON THE BASIS OF ECONOMY.

5. IT IS GOOD IDEA, AS PROPOSED IN STATE 198895, PARA 3 B, TO EMPHASIZE UNESCO'S NEED TO EVALUATE ITS OWN PROGRAMS, A REQUIREMENT THAT HAS BEEN STRESSED BY PERMDEL AT SEVERAL RECENT MEETINGS OF UNESCO EXECUTIVE COUNCILS. AND SOME PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE. NOTE THAT PEER REVIEW IN THE CONVENTIONAL SENSE WOULD NOT BE APPLICABLE TO ALL UNESCO PROGRAMS, WHICH ARE LAID OUT IN ADVANCE FOR TWO-YEAR PERIODS. IT IS USED IN SUCH CASES AS THE INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CORRELATION PROGRAM AND, OF COURSE, ALL THE LARGE, UNCLASSIFIED

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL PROGRAMS HAVE THEIR BUREAUS, WHICH PERFORM SIMILAR FUNCTIONS.

6. IT IS DIFFICULT TO PREDICT WHAT MAY COME OUT OF THIS CONFERENCE. PRESUMABLY, LITTLE ATTENTION WILL BE DEVOTED TO UNESCO AFFAIRS PER SE, WHILE UNCSTD WILL PERVADE MUCH OF THE MEETING. PERMDEL'S BEST GUESS IS THAT IT WILL CONCLUDE WITH AN AFFIRMATION OF THE VALUE OF COOPERATION, AND THAT THE SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES, SUPPORTED BY THE EAST EUROPEANS, WILL MANAGE TO GET ADOPTED LANGUAGE FAVORING INCREASED ACCESS BY THE LDC'S TO THE S&T RESOURCES OF INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS. PERMDEL SUGGESTS, UNLESS THIS IS STATING THE OBVIOUS, THAT THE LEADER OF THE DELEGATION HAVE WITH HIM BRIEF (10-20 MINUTES) WRITTEN STATEMENTS ON VARIOUS TOPICS THAT CAN BE USED AS APPROPRIATE DURING THE "DISCUSSIONS."
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